

Elizabeth Kelley

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Administrator Martha N. Johnson
Office of the Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

August 4, 2011

Dear Administrator Johnson:

I read with great concern that Donald Trump has placed a bid on the Old Post Office Pavilion on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Regardless of who purchases this historic structure and for whatever purposes they wish to profit from the building, what is your guarantee that people will continue to enjoy the Old Post Office Tower, the century old tower clock and the Bells of Congress? What is the guarantee that the tower will continue to operate as a national park, and that the associated Old Post Office building will retain its historic character?

Given the building's prominence on Pennsylvania Avenue and its contribution to the history of Washington, D.C., the purchase of the building by a noted developer that prefers to tear down historic structures and replace them with architecturally insignificant properties leaves me concerned. It is the obligation of a federal agency to protect its historic structures. To sell federal property to a developer who will replace the current building's use with an exclusive property cannot be mitigated. Any income received from the sale is not an argument against protecting this property from such a future. You would be receiving money for one period of time; but what the American people would lose over the years would certainly outweigh your gain. This duty to protect is the intent of the National Historic Preservation Act.

I am concerned about the impact such a sale would have on the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. Also, I am greatly concerned about the precedent this type of sale would set for the protection of landmarks owned by the people of the United States.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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Elizabeth Kelley, M.C.P. 0

cc: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
National Park Service Superintendent

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